



sell your c
miAutoMover.co



Site Menu

Reader Options

Front Page**News****Sports****Columnists****Opinion****Features****Classified****Search E****News Sections**[Region](#)[Elections](#)[U.S. & World](#)[War](#)[Special Projects](#)[Recent Articles](#)**Records**[Anniversaries](#)[Births & Adoptions](#)[Courts & Reports](#)[Obituaries](#)[Real Estate](#)[Weddings](#)**Popular Areas**[Messenger-Inquirer](#)**Special Publications**[Citizens' Reference Page](#)[E-The People](#)[Newspaper In Education](#)[Special Publications](#)[GO!](#)[Community Calendar](#)[Goodfellows](#)[Obituary Policy](#)[OwensboroMLS.com](#)[Internet Directory](#)[Movie Listings](#)[Lottery Results](#)[Slide Shows](#)[Weather](#)**Contests**

No contests at this time

Governors, others call for boost in production

04/19/05

By H. Josef Hebert
Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- Corn-based ethanol is being pumped into more gas tanks every year, and farm-state senators and a majority of governors want an even greater flow. They say an energy bill Republicans are pushing through the House this week does not go far enough to replace foreign oil with homegrown ethanol.

The legislation would require refiners to use 5 billion gallons of corn-based ethanol a year by 2012, about 20 percent more than the industry expects to produce this year.

But governors from 30 states, in a recent letter to President Bush and members of Congress, urged lawmakers to boost the requirement to 8 billion gallons a year and provide tax breaks and other federal help to spur production from noncorn sources including grasses, wood chips and even garbage.

Rising oil imports are a major risk to the nation's energy, economic and environmental security, the governors wrote, adding that expansion of ethanol would be "the safest and cheapest way to mitigate these risks."

Transportation accounts for more than half of the U.S. thirst for oil, about 56 percent of which comes from imports; that portion is expected to be well over 60 percent by 2012.

Bills were introduced in the Senate and House last week calling for refiners to use 8 billion gallons of ethanol as a gasoline additive each year. An attempt is expected to be made to change the energy bill to reflect the higher number when it comes up for House debate

**What
need
to kn**

Find Hun
of th
Owensb
Area's Best



Wednesday.

Almost all ethanol now produced comes from corn. A federal mandate for refiners to more than double its use over the next seven years would be a major boon to farmers. While noncorn ethanol from various biomass sources is widely talked about, a practical and cost-effective process for producing it is still years away.

A coalition representing farmers, petroleum and environmental interests generally agree on language that would require refiners to use more ethanol as a gasoline additive, replacing a petroleum-based oxygenate, MTBE, which is being phased out because it has been found to contaminate drinking water.

New York, Connecticut and California banned MTBE in early 2004, resulting in a surge in ethanol demand and production. Ethanol production more than doubled during the last five years with dozens of new plants being built. About 4 billion gallons of ethanol are expected to be produced this year, compared with 1.4 billion gallons annually a decade ago.

Ethanol prices have declined sharply in recent months, largely because of the rapid growth in supply and few new markets. Shaw maintains that refiners are ignoring ethanol and keeping the additive out of some markets where it is readily available. The wholesale price of a gallon of ethanol is now about \$1.20, compared with \$1.75 in January, according to the National Corn Growers' Association.

A requirement for 8 billion gallons a year has more than 20 sponsors in the Senate and about the same number in the House.

While ethanol has widespread support among both Republicans and Democrats in Congress as well as at the White House, the corn-based fuel also has its detractors, among them lawmakers from California and the Northeast. They have argued a mandate to use ethanol isn't needed because refiners can produce gasoline that meets clean-air requirements without it or MTBE. They fear requiring ethanol, which is largely produced in the Midwest, will add to fuel costs where it is not widely produced.

[Back to top](#)

E-mail this page to:

Name

E-mail

From:

Name

E-mail

Message

Send